

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-16, 19, 21, 23, 24, and 26-33 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said process cartridge comprising:

a cartridge frame;

an electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a charging member for configured and positioned to electrically charging charge said electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a developing member configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ an electrostatic latent image formed on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a developer accommodating portion configured and positioned to accommodate ~~for accommodating~~ a developer to be used for developing the electrostatic latent image by said developing member;

an engaging member;

first, second, and third guide portions;

a driving force receiving member; and

a positioning portion;

wherein said engaging member is configured and positioned to be ~~for being~~ supported by a receiving portion of a movable member provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus when said engaging member is in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein said engaging member is

provided on a portion of said cartridge frame which is above said second and third guide portions when said process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in a longitudinal direction of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, at a downstream end of said process cartridge in a direction of insertion of said cartridge into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein said first guide portion is provided on a portion of said cartridge frame which is above said second and third guide portions when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, downstream of said third guide portion and said positioning portion with respect to the direction of insertion of said cartridge, wherein said first guide portion is guided by a main assembly fixed guide provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus when said cartridge is being inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein said second guide portion is provided on a portion of said cartridge frame which is below said engaging member and said first guide portion when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, downstream of said third guide portion and said positioning portion with respect to the insertion direction of said cartridge, wherein said second guide portion is guided by a first guide recess provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein said third guide portion is provided on a portion of said cartridge frame which is below said engaging member and said first guide portion when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, upstream of said engaging member, said first and second guide portions, and said driving force receiving member in the direction of insertion of said cartridge, wherein said third guide portion is guided by a second guide recess provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein said driving force receiving member is provided at a downstream end of said process cartridge with respect to the direction of insertion of said cartridge, wherein said driving force receiving member receives a driving force from a driving force transmitting member provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus; and

wherein said positioning portion is projected from said cartridge frame in an upstream direction with respect to the direction of insertion of said process cartridge, wherein said positioning portion is disposed coaxially with said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein when said engaging member supported by the receiving portion is released to permit said cartridge to be lowered to a mount position, said positioning portion is supported by a positioning recess provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, and wherein when said process cartridge is lowered to the mount position, said first guide portion has passed by ~~said~~ the main assembly fixed guide and is not supported by ~~said~~ the main assembly fixed guide.

2. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said second guide portion and said third guide portion are provided in a cartridge frame portion having said developer accommodating portion, and said engaging member and said first guide portion are provided in a cartridge frame portion opposite from the cartridge frame portion having said second guide portion and said third guide portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to ~~Claims 1 or~~ Claim 2, wherein by operating a lever provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, the movable member is lowered, and said engaging member supported by the receiving portion is released, so that said process cartridge is lowered to the mount position from the position in which it is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein when said process cartridge is lowered, said second guide portion is in engagement with the first guide recess, and said third guide portion is in engagement with the second guide recess, and said process cartridge is lowered by rotation about said second guide portion and said third guide portion to the mount position.

5. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein said engaging member is projected upwardly beyond a top side of the cartridge frame portion in

which said engaging member and said first guide portion are provided and is projected in the direction of insertion beyond a leading end surface of the cartridge frame portion in which said engaging member and said first guide portion are provided, wherein said leading end surface is a surface which takes a leading position when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein said top side is a side which takes a top position when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein said engaging member is integrally formed with a leading end cover constituting said cartridge frame, wherein said engaging member has a cylindrical configuration, and wherein said leading end cover takes a leading end position when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

7. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein said first guide portion is projected beyond a side surface of the cartridge frame portion in which said engaging member and said first guide portion are provided in a direction crossing with the direction of insertion, and said first guide portion has a horizontal projected portion which is substantially parallel with a top side of the cartridge frame portion in which said engaging member and said first guide portion are provided and a downward projected portion which projects downwardly from said horizontal projected portion, said downward projected portion

having a bottom end for being guided by the main assembly fixed guide provided in the main assembly.

8. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 7, wherein said first guide portion is integrally formed with a leading end cover and a cleaning frame which constitute said cartridge frame, wherein the leading end cover takes a leading end position when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

9. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein said second guide portion is projected downwardly from a bottom side of the cartridge frame portion in which said second guide portion and said third guide portion are provided, and a leading end portion of said second guide portion is engageable with a hole provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein the bottom side takes a bottom position when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said second guide portion is formed integrally with a leading end cover constituting said cartridge frame, and wherein the leading end cover takes a leading end position when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein said third guide portion is projected downwardly from a bottom side of the cartridge frame portion in which said second guide portion and said third guide portion are provided, wherein the bottom side takes a bottom position when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein said third guide portion is formed integrally with a trailing end cover constituting said cartridge frame, wherein the trailing end cover takes a trailing end position when said cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein a top side of said cartridge frame is provided with a first grip configured and positioned to be ~~for being~~ gripped when said cartridge is carried, and a trailing end portion of said cartridge frame is provided with a second grip configured and positioned to be ~~for being~~ gripped when said cartridge is inserted into or taken out of the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 13, further comprising a positioning member provided at a leading end side with respect to the direction of insertion of said process cartridge, said positioning member extending so as to enclose said driving force

receiving member, wherein a part of said positioning member is engaged with the positioning recess provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus to be correctly positioned at the mount position in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

15. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein said process cartridge moves from the mount position through ~~100  $\mu$  - 1 mm~~ 100  $\mu$ m - 1 mm in a direction crossing with the direction of the insertion, when said driving force receiving member is centered relative to the driving force transmitting member by receiving the driving force from the driving force transmitting member.

16. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on the recording material, to which a process cartridge is detachably mountable, said apparatus comprising:

- (a) a lever;
- (b) a movable member interrelated with said lever, said movable member having a receiving portion;
- (c) a main assembly fixed guide;
- (d) a first guide recess;
- (e) a second guide recess;
- (f) a positioning recess;



(g) a driving force transmitting member; and

(h) a process cartridge mounting portion configured and positioned to ~~for~~ detachably mountable mount the process cartridge, the process cartridge including:

a cartridge frame;

an electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a charging member configured and positioned to electrically charge ~~for electrically charging~~ the electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a developing member configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ an electrostatic latent image formed on the electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a developer accommodating portion configured and positioned to accommodate ~~for accommodating~~ a developer to be used for developing the electrostatic latent image by the developing member;

first, second, and third guide portions;

a driving force receiving member;

a positioning portion; and

an engaging member configured and positioned to be ~~for being~~ supported by said receiving portion of said movable member when the engaging member is in a main assembly of said electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein the engaging member is provided on a portion of the cartridge frame which is above the second and third guide portions when the process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of said electrophotographic image forming apparatus in a longitudinal direction thereof, at a downstream end of the process cartridge in a

direction of insertion of the process cartridge into the main assembly of said electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein the first guide portion is provided on a portion of the cartridge frame which is above the second and third guide portions when the process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of said electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, downstream of the third guide portion and the positioning portion with respect to the direction of insertion of the process cartridge, wherein the first guide portion is guided by said main assembly fixed guide;

wherein the second guide portion is provided on a portion of the cartridge frame which is below the engaging member and the first guide portion when the process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of said electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, downstream of the third guide portion and the positioning portion with respect to the insertion direction of the process cartridge, wherein the second guide portion is guided by said first guide recess when the process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of said electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein the third guide portion is provided on a portion of the cartridge frame which is below the engaging member and the first guide portion when the process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of said electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, upstream of the engaging member, the first and second guide portions, and the driving force receiving member in the direction of insertion of the process cartridge, wherein the third guide portion is guided by said second guide

recess when the process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of said electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein the driving force receiving member is provided at a downstream end of the process cartridge with respect to the direction of insertion, wherein the driving force receiving member receives a driving force from said driving force transmitting member; and

wherein the positioning portion is projected from the cartridge frame in an upstream direction with respect to a direction of insertion, wherein the positioning portion is disposed coaxially with the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein when the engaging member supported by said receiving portion is released to permit the process cartridge to be lowered to a mount position, the positioning portion is supported by said positioning recess, and wherein when the process cartridge is lowered to the mount position, the first guide portion has passed by said main assembly fixed guide and is not supported by said main assembly fixed guide.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said main assembly fixed guide is disposed adjacent one end of said process cartridge mounting portion with respect to a direction crossing with the direction of insertion, and is extended in the direction of insertion from an inlet side for insertion of the process cartridge to said process cartridge mounting portion toward a rear side, wherein said main assembly fixed guide is provided with a recess engageable with the first guide portion.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said first guide recess and said second guide recess are disposed adjacent the other end of said process cartridge mounting portion with respect to a direction crossing with the direction of insertion, wherein said second guide recess is disposed adjacent an entrance portion of said process cartridge mounting portion, and said first guide recess is disposed at a rear side of said process cartridge mounting portion, and wherein a flat guide portion is provided between said first guide recess said second guide recess.

19. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method for mounting a process cartridge to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) a step of providing in the main assembly of ~~said~~ the electrophotographic image forming apparatus,

a lever,

a movable member interrelated with the lever and having a receiving portion,

a fixed guide,

a first guide recess,

a second guide recess,

a positioning recess, and

a driving force transmitting member;

(b) a step of providing in the process cartridge,

a cartridge frame,

an electrophotographic photosensitive drum,

a charging member configured and positioned to electrically charge ~~for electrically charging the~~ electrophotographic photosensitive drum,

a developing member configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ an electrostatic latent image formed on the electrophotographic photosensitive drum,

a developer accommodating portion configured and positioned to accommodate ~~for accommodating~~ a developer to be used for developing the electrostatic latent image by the developing member,

first, second, and third guide portions;

a driving force receiving member;

a positioning portion; and

an engaging member configured and positioned to be ~~for being~~ supported by the receiving portion when the engaging member is in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein the engaging member is provided on a portion of the cartridge frame which is above the second and third guide portions when the process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in a longitudinal direction thereof, at a downstream end of the process cartridge in a direction of insertion of the cartridge into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein the first guide portion is provided on a portion of the cartridge frame which is above the second and third guide portions when the cartridge is inserted into the main

assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, downstream of the third guide portion and the positioning portion with respect to the direction of insertion of the cartridge, wherein the first guide portion is guided by the fixed guide when the cartridge is being inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus;

wherein the second guide portion is provided on a portion of the cartridge frame which is below the engaging member and the first guide portion when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, downstream of the third guide portion and the positioning portion with respect to the insertion direction of the cartridge, wherein the second guide portion is guided by the first guide recess when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus,

wherein the third guide portion is provided on a portion of the cartridge frame which is below the engaging member and the first guide portion when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in the longitudinal direction of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, upstream of the engaging member, the first and second guide portions, and the driving force receiving portion in the direction of insertion of the cartridge, wherein the third guide portion is guided by the second guide recess when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus,

wherein the driving force receiving member is provided at a downstream leading end of the process cartridge with respect to the direction of insertion, wherein the driving force receiving member receives a driving force from the driving force transmitting member, and

wherein the positioning portion is projected from the cartridge frame in an upstream direction with respect to the direction of insertion, wherein the positioning portion is disposed coaxially with the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein when the engaging member supported by the receiving portion is released to permit the cartridge to be lowered to a mount position, the positioning portion is supported by the positioning recess provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus; and

(c) a step of inserting the process cartridge into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus with the first guide portion being guided by the fixed guide, with the second guide portion being guided by the first guide recess, and with the third guide portion being guided by the second guide recess; causing the engaging member to be supported by the receiving portion; and thereafter, releasing, with the first guide portion having passed by the first guide recess and not being supported by the fixed guide, the engaging member from the receiving portion by operating the movable member, so that the cartridge is ~~let~~ allowed to fall to the mount position.

20. (Previously Presented) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 19, further comprising the step of providing the second guide portion and the third guide portion in a cartridge frame portion having the developer accommodating portion, and providing the

engaging member and the first guide portion in a cartridge frame portion opposite from the cartridge frame portion having the second guide portion and the third guide portion.

21. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of lowering the movable member, and releasing the engaging member supported by the receiving portion, so that the cartridge is lowered to the mount position from the position in which it is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in response to operating the lever provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

22. (Previously Presented) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 21, wherein when the cartridge is lowered, the second guide portion is in engagement with the first guide recess, and the third guide portion is in engagement with the second guide recess, and the cartridge is lowered by rotation about the second guide portion and the third guide portion to the mount position.

23. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 20, wherein the engaging member is projected upwardly beyond a top side of the cartridge frame portion in which the engaging member and the first guide portion are provided and is projected in the direction of insertion beyond a leading end surface of the cartridge frame portion in which the engaging member and the first guide portion are provided, wherein the leading end surface is a



surface which takes a leading position when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein the top side is a side which takes a top position when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

24. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 23, wherein the engaging member is integrally formed with a leading end cover constituting the cartridge frame, and wherein the engaging member has a cylindrical configuration, wherein said method further comprises the step of the leading end cover taking a leading end position when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

25. (Previously Presented) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 21, wherein the first guide portion is projected beyond a side surface of the cartridge frame portion in which the engaging member and the first guide portion are provided in a direction crossing with the direction of insertion, and the first guide portion has a horizontal projected portion which is substantially parallel with a top side of the cartridge frame portion in which the engaging member and the first guide portion are provided and a downward projected portion which projects downwardly from the horizontal projected portion, the downward projected portion having a bottom end for being guided by the fixed guide in the main assembly.

26. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 25, wherein the first guide portion is integrally formed with a leading end cover and a cleaning frame which constitute the cartridge frame, wherein said method further comprises the step of the leading end cover taking a leading end position when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

27. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 21, wherein the second guide portion is projected downwardly from a bottom side of the cartridge frame portion in which the second guide portion and the third guide portion are provided, and a leading end portion of the second guide portion is engageable with a hole provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein the bottom side takes a bottom position when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

28. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 27, wherein the second guide portion is formed integrally with a leading end cover constituting the cartridge frame, wherein said method further comprises the step of the leading end cover taking a leading end position when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

29. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 21, wherein the third guide portion is projected downwardly from a bottom side of the cartridge frame portion in which the second guide portion and the third guide portion are provided , and wherein said method further comprises the step of the bottom side taking a bottom position when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

30. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 29, wherein the third guide portion is formed integrally with a trailing end cover constituting the cartridge frame, wherein said method further comprises the step of the trailing end cover taking a trailing end position when the cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

31. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 19, wherein a top side of the cartridge frame is provided with a first grip configured and positioned to be for ~~being~~ gripped when the cartridge is carried, and a trailing end portion of the cartridge frame is provided with a second grip configured and positioned to be for ~~being~~ gripped when the cartridge is inserted into or taken out of the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

32. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 19, further comprising the step of providing a positioning member provided at a leading end side with respect to the direction of insertion of the process cartridge, the positioning member extending so as to enclose the driving force receiving member, wherein a part of the positioning member is engaged with the positioning recess provided in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus to be correctly positioned at the mount position in the main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

33. (Currently Amended) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 19, 25, 27, or 29, further comprising the step of moving the process cartridge from the mount position through ~~100 $\mu$  - 1 mm~~ 100  $\mu$ m - 1 mm in a direction crossing with the direction of the insertion, when the driving force receiving member is centered relative to the driving force transmitting member by receiving the driving force from the driving force transmitting member.

34. (Previously Presented) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 19, wherein the fixed guide is disposed adjacent one end of a cartridge mounting portion with respect to a direction crossing with the direction of insertion, and wherein the fixed guide is extended in the direction of insertion from an inlet side for insertion of the process cartridge to the cartridge mounting portion toward a rear side, wherein the fixed guide is provided with a recess engageable with the first guide portion.

35. (Previously Presented) A cartridge mounting method according to Claim 34, wherein the first guide recess and the second guide recess are disposed adjacent the other end of the cartridge mounting portion with respect to a direction crossing with the direction of insertion, wherein the second guide recess is disposed adjacent an entrance portion of the cartridge mounting portion, and the first guide recess is disposed at a rear side of the cartridge mounting portion, and wherein a flat guide portion is provided between the first guide recess and the second guide recess.